

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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USIAEA

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TAGS: IAEA, AORG

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON THE GENERAL COMMITTEE: 2/21/78

REF: STATE 32200

1. REPRESENTATIVES FROM 14 COUNTRIES MET FOR CONSULTATIONS ON THE GENERAL COMMITTEE UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE IRANIAN GOVERNOR AND PRESIDENT OF THE 1977 GENERAL CONFERENCE ETEMAD. ETEMAD NOTED THE TWO POSSIBILITIES FOR CREATING ADDITIONAL AFRICAN REPRESENTATION EITHER A CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OR A ROTATION SCHEME WHERE THREE REGIONS -- NORTH AMERICA, WESTER EUROPE, AND EASTERN EUROPE -- WOULD SUCCESSIVELY GIVE UP ONE OF THEIR SEATS ON THE GENERAL COMMITTEE. THIS SCHEME WOULD KEEP THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE AT 15, AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE GENERAL CONFERENCE RULES OF PROCEDURE. IT WAS NOTED

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THAT THE RULES OF PROCEDURE HAD BEEN SUSPENDED TO PROVIDE FOR ONE ADDITIONAL SEAT FOR AFRICA IN 1976 AND TWO ADDITIONAL SEATS IN 1977.

2. THE TUNISIAN GOVERNOR SPEAKING FOR AFRICA CALLED FOR PERMANENT ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION FOR HIS REGION. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION OF HOW MANY REPRESENTATIVES ON THE GENERAL COMMITTEE THE AFRICAN REGION WANTED,

HE STATED THAT AFRICA SOUGHT ONE ADDITIONAL SEAT
BUT IF THE QUESTION WERE NOT RESOLVED PROMPTLY, IT
MIGHT RAISE ITS DEMANDS TO TWO ADDITIONAL SEATS.

3. THE BRITISH REP SPEAKING FOR THE WESTERN EUROPEAN
COUNTRIES ON THE COMMITTEE (FRANCE AND FRG) STATED
THAT THEY WOULD NOT WELCOME AN AMENDMENT TO THE RULES
OF PROCEDURE. THE U.S. REP INDICATED A NEED FOR FURTHER
CONSULTATION WITH THE CANADIANS BUT STATED THAT THE
U.S. HAS SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE PROPOSAL FOR
ROTATION. THE SOVIET REP SAID NOTHING AT THIS POINT,
THOUGH LATER HE DID INDICATE THAT A THIRD OPTION
IS TO CONTINUE TO DECIDE REGARDING AFRICAN REPRESENTATION
ON AN AD HOC BASIS.

4. IN AN EFFORT TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK OTHER REGIONS
INDICATED THEIR PREFERENCE REGARDING A SOLUTION. THE
AFRICAN AND LATIN AMERICAN REGION FAVORED ROTATION.
THE SOUTHEAST ASIA REGION WAS DIVIDED WITH MALAYSIA
FAVORING ROTATION AND AUSTRALIA ARGUING FOR AN AD HOC
APPROACH. THE FAR EAST MADE NO STATEMENT.

5. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION, IN WHICH SOVIETS REMAINED
NONCOMMITTAL, ETEMAD RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO CHAIR A
FURTHER INFORMAL MEETING AT TIME OF JUNE MEETING OF
THE BOARD. LABOWITZ
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